

MARC Spark Gap

Volume XV Number 5

MAY 1998

HF Mobile from "The Middle of Nowhere"

Terry Grubb, N9YLJ, is the speaker scheduled for the May meeting of the Midstate Amateur Radio Club.

Terry is a past president to MARC. Due to the travel required by his job and his interest in amateur radio, HF Mobile is a natural extension of his interests.

Terry will speak about his experiences running the low bands from his Jeep, both while working and traveling for fun.

Don't miss out on this interesting aspect of amateur radio. Be sure to attend YOUR club meeting, Saturday May 16th at 8:00 AM at the Johnson County EOC.

VE testing will take place immediately after the meeting.

Field Day June 27-28

Field Day '98

Field Day '98 is approaching fast! This year the MARC Field Day effort will take place at a different location than in previous years.

Mark your calendars and get your writing hand into shape. There will be lots to see, do and experience!

MARC's Field Day activities will take place at the Prince's Lake City Hall. Returning this year is the famous "50 Ton Rotor". There is plenty of room at this new site and JR Osborne, KB9HSE, has some interesting new things lined up to keep the weekend exciting.

As the weekend of June 27 & 28 approaches there will be greater need for assistance. JR will be in need of folks to help coordinate various parts of the MARC Field Day extravaganza.

Put on your volunteer hat! 73

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club is affiliated with the ARRL and is a designated Special Service Club.



Spark Gap

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Membership Information

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club is a Franklin, IN based organization open to all amateur radio operators in central Indiana.

The MARC meets the third Saturday of each month in the training room of the Johnson County Emergency Operations Center located at 1100 Hospital Road in Franklin, IN.

The MARC operates a 2-meter repeater at 146.835 MHz. Each club member has free access to the repeater and autopatch.

Annual dues are \$18 per year. VE testing follows each meeting from March through November.

Stories can be submitted to the interim editor via email at the email address listed above by the 3rd of each month.

Send change of address information and club membership to the club treasurer at:

MARC
P.O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131

Club Officers

President:

Rick Reneau, KB9NDF
H. 780-1803

Vice President:

George Weimer, N9GW
H. 882-5081

Secretary:

Marilyn Parton, N9TUK
H. 595-9910

Treasurer/ARES:

Vernon Gill, N9QBO
H. 738-4575

RACES Director:

Rich Jasinski, KB9LJM
H. 889-8962

Repeater Trustee:

Dave Julian, WB9YIG
H. 887-9504

Activities:

Vacant, won't you consider volunteering?

VE Team Coordinator:

Dave Wendt, KA9OOH
H. 974-1488

Dayton Hamfest

May 15, 16, 17

Touchdown!!!

American Radio Relay League/VEC	
CERTIFICATE OF SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF EXAMINATION	
Test Site (complete)	FRANKLIN, IN
Test Date	4/18/98
CREDIT FOR ELEMENTS TESTED	
You have passed the following amateur elements indicated at right. You will be given credit for the appropriate examination elements if you wish to upgrade your license class again when a newly-upgraded license application is pending with the FCC.	
LICENSE UPGRADING NOTICE	
If you also hold a valid FCC-issued Amateur Radio license, the Certificate certifies temporary operation with the UPGRADED privileges of your new operator class (see Section 97.3(b) of the FCC's Rules) until you are granted the license for your new operator class for a period of 365 days from the test date listed above on this certificate, whenever comes first.	
LICENSE STATUS INQUIRIES	
To check the status of your license upgrade has been "granted" by calling the ARRL at 1-888-594-6300 during business hours. After 10 days from the test date before calling.	
THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT A LICENSE, PERMIT, OR ANY OTHER KIND OF OPERATING AUTHORITY IN AND OF ITSELF. THE ELEMENT CREDITS AND/OR OPERATING PRIVILEGES THAT MAY BE INDICATED IN THE LICENSE UPGRADE NOTICE ARE VALID FOR 365 DAYS FROM THE TEST DATE. THE HOLDER NAMED HEREON MUST ALSO HAVE BEEN GRANTED AN AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE ISSUED BY THE FCC TO OPERATE ON THE AIR.	
<p><i>Richard Reneau</i></p> <p>Candidate's name: Richard Reneau</p> <p>call sign (if none, write none)</p> <p>address: 5431 Padre Lane</p> <p>city: Indianapolis, IN 46250-2813</p> <p>state: IN</p>	
<p><i>Paulette Wendt</i></p> <p>Candidate's name: Paulette Wendt</p> <p>call sign (if none, write none)</p> <p>address: 1000 W. Washington</p> <p>city: Indianapolis, IN 46202</p> <p>state: IN</p>	

It's incredible, but it really happened! The sky didn't fall, though, and nothing froze over! Rick Reneau, KB9NDF, surprised a number of people (himself included) when he passed his final test to reach Extra class. One of the Club New Year's Resolutions was for Rick to pass his 20wpm code exam. This was to allow more space in the code testing room for other deserving hams. There was another surprise coming out of this recent testing session. Paulette Wendt (patient, long suffering spouse of Dave Wendt, KA9OOH) earned her Technician license. (It would appear that Dave just might have to spring for a new rig for HER car.)

Paulette and Rick were just part of a huge crowd that tested after the April MARC club meeting. Dave Wendt, VE Team Coordinator states this group ranked as one of the largest to test with the MARC VE team. A surprising number of existing licensees were attempting code examinations. Some speculate that the upturn in the sunspot cycle and the increase in HF propagation is responsible for the increased interest in upgrading.

The Novice/Technician class that began in early March was also winding down, resulting in many of the students being eager to get that ticket for which they had studied and given up

their Monday nights for nearly 2 months. Whatever the reason, it was a packed session, lasting nearly three hours.

Here is a complete list, in alphabetical order, of those persons qualifying for either a new license or an upgrade to their existing license. Shown also is the license class earned upon completion of their test(s).

John Ankrom	Greenfield	N9VQW	General
Tim Berberick	Franklin	KB9SRD	Tech
Lewis Bolick	Indianapolis	KB9RSD	Tech+
Ron Cummings	Columbus	KB9SQZ	Tech
Gary Gill	Columbus	N9ZYE	Tech+
Richard Long	Greenwood	KB9SQX	Novice
Jeff Patterson	Greenwood	KB9SRB	Tech
Terry Payne	Elizabethtown	KB9SRE	Tech+
Rick Reneau	Indianapolis	KB9NDF	Extra
Jason Richardson	Franklin	KB9SRA	Tech
Matt Stone	Morgantown	KB9SRF	Tech+
Richard Stratman	Moores Hill	KB9SQY	Tech
Steve Tamarri	Indianapolis	KB9SKG	Tech+
Ray Thomas	Terre Haute	KG9GN	Extra
Paulette Wendt	Indianapolis	KB9SRC	Tech

Not listed are persons that passed elements, but didn't qualify for a new license or upgrade.

Congratulations to everyone that attempted and we wish them well with their continued efforts.

Thanks to the dedicated Volunteer Examiners for their time and effort expended in helping others reach their licensing goals.⁷³

Speaking of upgrades, Icom America began a new promotion on April 1st. Any person that upgrades to General class or higher between 4/1/98 and 3/31/99 is eligible to enter their "Hear comes the Sun" promotion.

Every month they will draw a name to win an Icom-706 MKII mobile HF radio! To enter, qualified applicants must send a photocopy of their NEW license along with a QSL card or a 3x5 card with their name, address and zip.

Further info can be found at Icom's website at www.icomamerica.com/amateur/706MKIIGiveaway.html 73

70cm

Band Threat

Late Breaking News:

The ARRL is organizing opposition to a new threat to the 70-cm Amateur Radio band. The Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) has asked the FCC to immediately reallocate 420 to 430 MHz and 440 to 450 MHz from the federal government to the Private Mobile Radio Service (PMRS) on a primary basis.

Amateur Radio now enjoys the use of 420 to 450 MHz on a secondary basis, and the 430 to 440 MHz segment is an international allocation. The 70-cm band is the second most popular of the hobby's VHF/UHF allocations, with substantial FM repeater and other operation in the 440 to 450 MHz segment and a variety of uses in the 420 to 430 MHz segment.

The LMCC request, based on "additional spectrum needs of the PMRS community," acknowledges Amateur Radio's use of 420 to 430 and 440 to 450 MHz, and suggests that ham radio applications can remain secondary to PMRS in those segments, but offers no explanation of how sharing could be accomplished.

The LMCC says it believes the 430 to 440 MHz sub-band "is more important to the amateurs for use in emerging technologies such as links with spacecraft and amateur television applications."

The petition also suggests that equipment availability and technology resulting from an expanded PMRS presence on 70 cm would benefit hams "pursuing such applications as compressed video television in the 430-440 MHz band."

The LMCC concedes, however, that its "most urgent need" for PMRS is voice and low-speed

data applications, not advanced technologies which might come later on.

The petition also notes that PMRS already uses 420 to 430 MHz in three Canadian border cities (Buffalo, Cleveland and Detroit) and a "reduction in military use of this band is foreseen."

The LMCC also seeks allocations at 1390 to 1400 MHz, 1427-1432 MHz, and 1670 to 1675 MHz as well as 85 MHz at 960 to 1215 MHz by 2010.

Comments are due on the LMCC's Petition for Rulemaking, RM-9267, by June 1. Reply comments are due by June 15. *ARRL Letter*

The Sunspots are coming! The Sunspots are here!

Want proof that HF propagation is improving in the new sunspot cycle?

Contacts between an Amateur Radio pedestrian mobile station in the Australian capital of Canberra and fixed stations in the US took place March 28 on 10 meters.

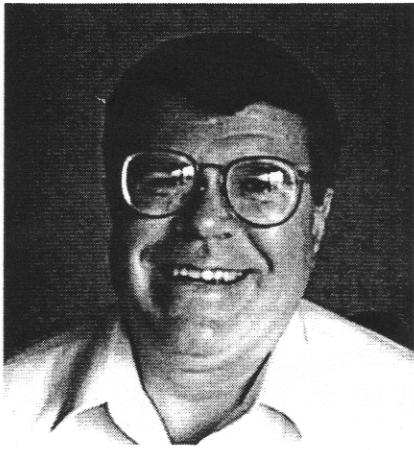
Using a converted CB transceiver and a nearly 6-foot mobile whip, Peter Parker, VK1PK, made two contacts with the US around midday Australian time. Parker's US QSOs followed a successful contact with ZL2RR earlier that morning.

Parker used approximately 8 feet of wire for a ground radial and powered the transceiver from a 12 V battery. He was running around 12 W PEP.--WIA QNews,

Member

Profile

(Editors note: Member profile is a section to highlight and introduce club members to the membership at large. If you would like to recommend someone for Member Profile, you can email me at my address listed on page 2. Thanks! Penny, Interim Editor.)



== George Weimer ==

For the month of April, our profiled member is George Weimer – N9GW. George has been a member of MARC ever since he first received his ticket.

George is well known on the 2 meter and 70 centimeter bands in the Indianapolis/Greenwood area. He is also known to warm up a dipole antenna at home and work the HF bands. His most recent accomplishment was to work Hawaii with a 57 report.

George is currently serving his second term as MARC Vice-President. He says he is looking forward to completing his term in September when he will pass the torch to his successor.

George was first licensed in August of 1995. His call then was KB9LJP. Since then he has been through two other calls, KG9HU which he

earned as an Advanced operator; and now N9GW. George reached his current status of Extra in June of 1997.

George first became interested in amateur radio because his wife had an uncle that was a ham. He was finally convinced to go for it when one day, while shopping for a scanner. A clerk at a local Radio Shack encouraged him to go for his amateur license.

George is a Professor of Music and Teacher Education at the University of Indianapolis. He also enjoys playing the trumpet. He is a native of Ohio (which explains his accent) and married a gal from South Carolina (which explains his pleasant personality).

George's wife, Ellen – KB9NZC is also a ham. As luck would have it, her callsign was posted on the internet on Field Day of 1996. Since then they are often heard on the air as they keep in contact via radio as they go about their schedules. George is a regular at club functions such as walk-a-thons and the Flat Rock run.

George's other hobbies include bicycling (with an HT of course), computers and playing the trumpet. In addition, for those that haven't heard George on the air, he has a full-time job chasing after his exuberant puppy, "Schnitzelhausen", struggling to keep her out of mischief and under control.

Next time you hear George on the air, be sure to tell him "Hi" and ask him about his dog.⁷³

